

NSC BRIEFING

18 NOVEMBER 1955

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SOME POINTS MADE BY JUSTICE DOUGLAS

- I. Justice Douglas deeply concerned about impact USSR having and may have on people from under-developed countries.
 - A. He said: "Given ten years of peace, Asia will be lost to the USSR."
 - B. Visits to the USSR by Asians and Near East peoples having great effect on these visitors.
 - C. Douglas concerned Soviet actions these areas and by USSR's pushing its Point Four program hard.
 - D. He feels that Soviet industrial plant, at least in public mind, has been under-estimated.
 - E. In ten years, he thinks, Soviet industrial power might even overshadow that of Europe.
 - F. He said: "All our ideas of cost accounting go by the boards in that (Communist) system."
- II. Douglas travelled widely August and September in Siberia and Soviet Central Asia.
 - A. Denied travel to Leninabad (Tadzhik SSR).
 - 1. Told by Soviet personnel uranium discovered and being developed in Fergana Valley. Leninabad stands at mouth this valley.
 - B. Denied travel to Karaganda.
 - 1. According Soviet announcement 15 October, steel mill being built Karaganda will have ingot capacity 1.5 times that of Magnitogorsk, currently largest Soviet

2. On basis these figures, new plant will produce 6,750,000 metric tons of steel a year,--300,000 more than Gary Works of U.S. Steel, now world's largest plant.

3. First blast furnace to operate in 1958; full plant production in 1965.

C. Douglas believed his journey supervised quite closely by MVD.

III. Justice's party traveled extensively in "new lands" especially around Barnaul. He called area "booming frontier."

A. Soviet officials said that with a yield of only 5 bushels per acre, this program would pay off.

B. Douglas noted talk about "dust bowl" problems and that soil in area presents chemical problem.

1. Irrigation being worked on.

C. Large volume of rail traffic, particularly of farm machinery.

D. Douglas said: "Russia is crawling with agricultural scientists." He was told by Benediktov, Minister of State Farms, that 235,000 graduates of five-year agricultural colleges were available.

1. Described by Douglas as evangelical.

IV. Douglas looked into nationalities problem in Soviet Central Asia.

A. Said that in Republic capitals, about half population is Russian.

B. Russians get 130 percent more wages than natives; they get the apartments; inter-marriage is rare.

C. Schools are segregated. All universities and higher educational institutions run in Russian with a stiff entrance examination.

V. Conversations with Soviet citizens revealed little.

A. Big complaint was shortage of consumer goods.

B. Contacts asked question about life in the US, and seemed to have grandiose notions about power of Communist Party in USA.

VI. Miscellaneous observations.

A. Douglas saw many soldiers engaged in civilian construction work, such as apartment buildings.

B. His plane put down at Semipalatinsk for one hour or so around end of August. Numerous jet medium bombers seen at airfield. No unusual air sightings before or after Semipalatinsk.
1. Nuclear tests in area on 29 July and 2 August.

C. Many Chinese seen at Omsk. Train loads of Chinese going west seen at Petropavlovsk. At Bolshoi theater on night Douglas attended, three-fourths audience Chinese.

D. Douglas said: "There is no rationing in Soviet Central Asia."

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ARGENTINE STABILITY

- I. New government of Provisional President General Pedro Aramburu has broader military and civilian support than Lonardi, but still faces grave problems.
 - A. Power struggle and dissidence still evident.
 1. Extreme nationalists dissatisfied with Lonardi's ouster.
 2. Navy reported seeking increased power.
 3. Army divided on purge of Peronista officials.
 - B. Although CGT general strike smashed, government's strong show of force beclouds labor sympathies.
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 - C. [REDACTED] told Ambassador Nufer on 16 November that serious economic difficulties expected in near future unless government obtains prompt assistance.
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 1. [REDACTED] stated all of present government "definitely democratic" and most friendly toward US and inter-American cooperation.
 2. Nufer expects direct approach for financial aid on crash basis soon.

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BULGANIN-KHRUSHCHEV ITINERARY

- I. Bulganin and Khrushchev now in India. Will proceed about 5 December to Burma for one week stay; then to Afghanistan for one week.
 - A. Reports of a subsequent stop at Cairo still unconfirmed.
 - B. They are accompanied by high level staff especially qualified to discuss political, trade and cultural relations with South Asians.
 - C. N. A. Mikhailov - Minister of Culture
 - A. A. Gromyko - First Deputy Foreign Minister
 - P. M. Kумыkin - Deputy Foreign Trade Minister
 - I. A. Serov - Head of the Committee of State Security (KGB)
 - D. R. Rasulov - Deputy Minister of Agriculture (native of Tadzik Republic)
 - Mme. Z. R. Rakhimbabayeva - First Deputy Minister of Culture of the Uzbek Republic

These are only the top members of the delegation, which may be as large as 30 people.

 1. There are Uzbek and Tadzhik minorities in Afghanistan.
- II. Bulganin and Khrushchev are visiting major cities of India (Bombay, Calcutta, Madras) and other show places.

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- A. A good chance they will also visit Bhilai, apparently in anticipation of India's early acceptance of Soviet steel mill offer.
 - 1. Soviet survey teams already on scene, and housing construction activity has been reported.
- III. King Saud is to be in India while Soviet leaders are there.
- IV. Soviets more interested in good relations with India than with any other country in area.
- V. Soviet leaders undoubtedly will arrive with rash of offers for all three countries, especially economic and technical assistance.
- VI. It is expected that the three states will be more susceptible to Soviet offers than previously because of particularly acute economic problems they face at present.
 - A. Also the lack of Soviet attempts to attach political strings to economic assistance has convinced many Asians that they can do business with the Soviet Union without succumbing to Communist ideologies.
- VII. In any event, visit of Soviet leaders will enhance Soviet influence in area.
 - A. Visit will lend cloak of respectability to communist policies and open way for even further contacts between these countries and Soviet bloc.

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THE BRAZILIAN SITUATION

- I. Situation outwardly calm following 11 November coup but underlying tensions remain.
 - A. Cafe Filho still legally president.
 1. Reports state he may resume office in few days, although his actions in past year suggest he dislikes responsibility.
 2. Forces backing Acting President Ramos believe Cafe sympathetic to their opponents.
 3. Consequently, if Cafe resumes office, Ramos backed by War Minister Lott may try to oust him.
 - B. Increased troop movement noted on 17 November in Rio de Janeiro.
 - C. Two important state governors have refused to pledge support to new government, although not now actively opposing it.
 - D. Some important armed forces officers continue disaffected.
- II. All appointees of acting president Nereu Ramos are apparently supporters of president-elect Kubitschek, most are pro-US.
 - A. Labor minister Nelson Omega, however, is supporter of vice president-elect Goulart, has some links with Communist fronts, believed critical of US.
 - B. Pro-US finance minister retained.
 - C. New key police official in Rio de Janeiro believed by source with political contacts to be friend of Goulart

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anti-Communist.

III. Communists arrested on 12 November numbered 18, are apparently still in custody.

A. Arrests made during flash meetings apparently implementing Communist Central Committee instruction to support General Lott's 11 November coup by all mass actions possible.

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FRENCH ELECTORAL SITUATION

- I. Chances reduced for French National Assembly elections before Spring:
 - A. Tactical maneuver in assembly prevents Premier Faure from pressing directly for immediate decision on date:
 1. Majority of deputies (339-270) blocked further debate on electoral reform until Faure presents redistricting plan, which could lead to unlimited delay through debating and amending.
 - B. Faure, nevertheless, reported seeking to reintroduce electoral question on assembly agenda.
 - C. If assembly balks this move, resignations from cabinet may oblige Faure to resign.
 - D. Faure may pose vote of confidence on general government policy:
 1. Defeat by constitutional majority would permit dissolution.
 - E. Even if he should win a confidence vote on electoral issue, he would probably again run into trouble from the council.

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EAST GERMAN SITUATION

I. Travel to Berlin by civilian members of US, British and French staffs in Germany may soon be transferred to East German control.

A. This is suggested by recent Soviet queries [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] regarding Allied documentation.

II. USSR also hopes to circumvent Allied controls over Soviet travel in West Germany.

A. Sovereign West Germany will want to exercise control over Soviet travelers in her territory.

B. Bonn control of Soviet travelers would make it easier for the USSR to turn control of Allied travelers to Berlin over to East Germany.

III. USSR may have plan of successive stages of increasing Allied contacts with the East Germans with a view to forcing Western recognition.

IV. East German propaganda threats against Berlin continue.

V. Last week's refugee flow into ^{West} Berlin increased over previous week from 3839 to 4450.

A. Almost 50 percent of total refugees cross directly into West Germany.

1. So total figure probably almost double that of Berlin count.

VI. Morale continues low in East Germany.

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- A. Soviet actions at Geneva have destroyed any remaining hopes for reunification of Germany.
- B. Prospects for food shortages during winter and for conscription will further lower morale.
- C. Another 17 June not expected.
 - 1. Rather than serious demonstrations against the regime, opposition will be reflected in a continued high refugee flow, unless forcefully stemmed by regime.